

NEBRASKA WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP REPORT

Released 5-8-56

Week Ending 5-6-56

WEATHER The week was unseasonably cold, but with no freezing temperatures. Temperatures averaged about 10° below normal. Precipitation ranged from moderate in the south-central and southeast to none over most of the western third of the State. There was much cloudiness, humidity was high, and evaporation was very low.

April was much colder and somewhat drier than normal. Most of the rain fell during the first few and last few days of the month. The precipitation was well distributed throughout the State, with totals of less than an inch reported from a few stations in the south-central, southwestern, northwestern and the extreme south-eastern portions of the State. The heaviest precipitation occurred over a belt extending from Frontier County northeastward to the eastern portion of the South Dakota border, where many stations had totals of more than two inches, or approximately normal amounts. There was much cloudiness, and humidity was generally high, so the surface soil and moisture made some gain during the month.

CROPS Winter wheat is a little behind its normal stage of growth for this date, due to some damage from freezing and low temperatures. The precipitation of the past two weeks has moistened the top soil sufficiently for the crop to make good progress as soon as temperatures are a little higher. The damage from freezing about two weeks ago is limited largely to the western half of the state. There is some worm and mite damage. Subsoil moisture is quite satisfactory in the Pan-handle but short elsewhere, including some summer fallow in southwestern Nebraska.

Oats show a slight improvement, but the condition of barley is slightly lower. Temperatures have been a little too low for these crops. Some of the barley seeded last fall winter-killed. Some of the spring grains were sown quite early, but the average seeding date is later than usual.

A little corn was planted last week. The soil is still too cool for planting. Farmers are eager to plant as soon as the weather permits. There should be sufficient moisture in the surface soil to sprout the grain as soon as temperatures are higher.

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The rainfall of the past two weeks should be ample to start alfalfa, wild hay and pastures, as soon as temperatures are high enough. These crops will need more subsoil moisture to continue growth. Late pasture growth is presenting a problem to farmers who are short of feed.

Most of the counties are now reporting ample surface moisture, but all counties are still reporting a shortage of subsoil moisture, except in the Pan-handle. With precipitation only 45% of normal for the six-month period ending March 31 and with April precipitation only 61% of normal, three or four inches of rainfall is still needed to restore the subsoil moisture.

LIVESTOCK Recent rains have improved the pasture outlook, but some pastures are lagging behind due to unfavorable spring weather and are in a weakened condition due to close grazing and dry weather last fall. Some farmers are completely out of hay and have put their stock on pastures in order to avoid purchasing more hay, which has been advancing in price in recent weeks.

Statistics released last week totaled \$610 million in cash receipts from marketings last year, slightly below that of 1954. There was an increase in marketings of cattle and hogs, but fewer sheep. Prices were on the lower level. Cash receipts from chicks, eggs and broilers totaled \$52 million, up 4% from 1954.

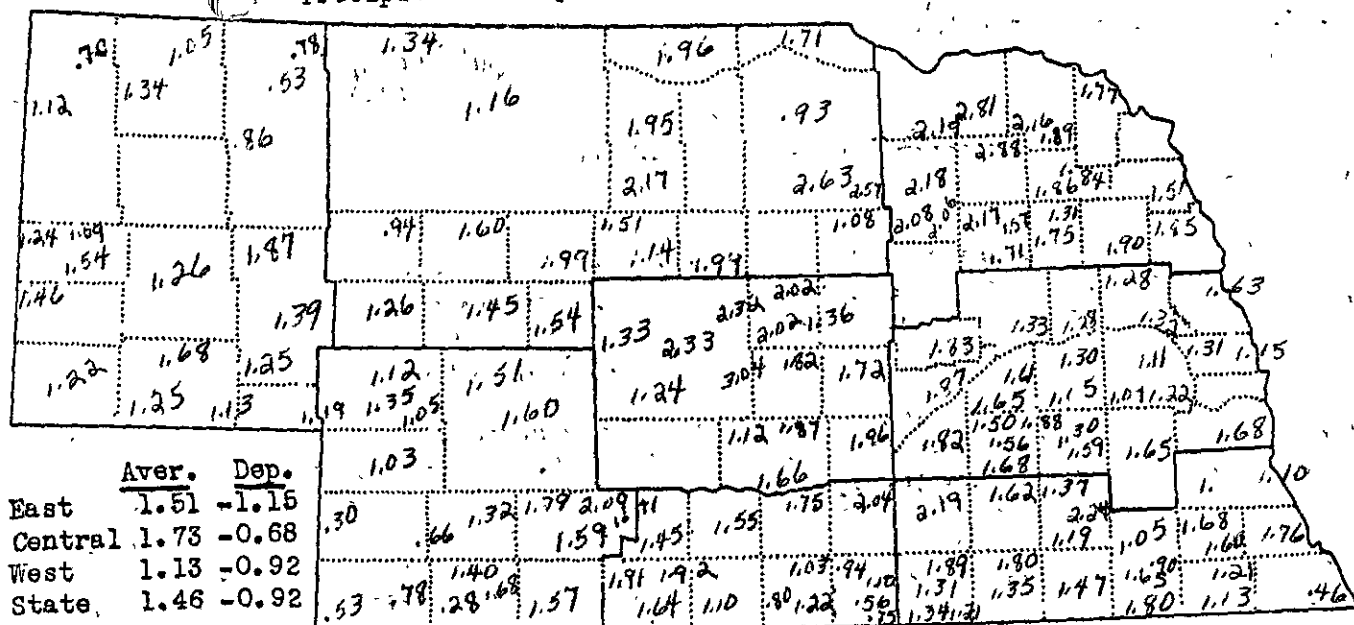
WEATHER BUREAU TELEGRAPHIC REPORT OF PRECIPITATION FOR WEEK ENDING MAY 7, 1956

<u>Eastern Division</u>	<u>Central Division</u>	<u>Western Division</u>
Grand Island .67	Burwell .01	Chadron 0
Lincoln .67	North Platte .24	Imperial 0
Norfolk .05	Valentine .19	Scottsbluff .07
Omaha .63		Sidney 0
Sioux City .03		

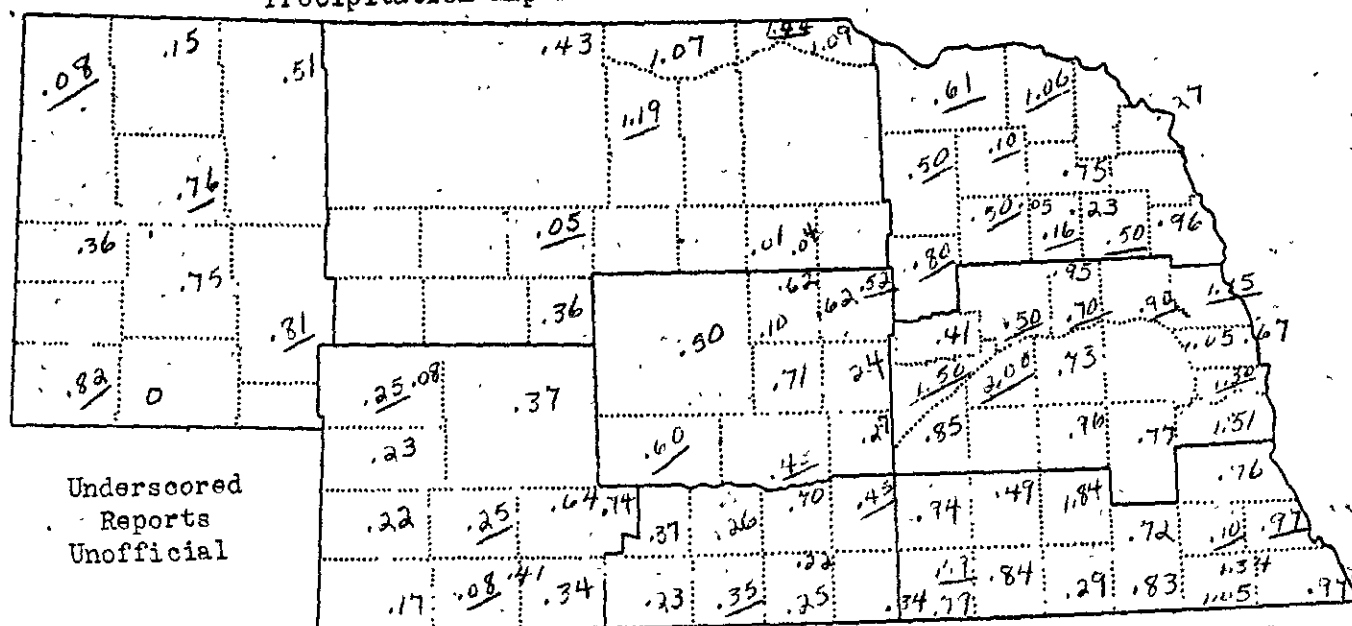
Precipitation, April 1-May 4, 1956

	<u>Eastern Div.</u>	<u>Central Div.</u>	<u>Western Div.</u>
Total Past Week	.75	.48	.29
Total Since April 1	1.95	1.72	1.18
Long-Time Average since April 1	3.01	2.78	2.40

Precipitation Map for Month April, 1956



Precipitation Map for Week Ending May 4, 1956



HIGHEST AND LOWEST TEMPERATURES (Highs for 24 hours ending at 12:30 a.m., and lows for 12 hours ending at 6:30 a.m. CST)

		May 1st		2nd		3rd		4th		5th		6th		7th	
		Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min
NW	Chadron	45	38	59	32	64	36	43	36	51	40	67	43	63	36
	Scottsbluff	55	38	63	34	76	41	43	37	54	40	74	42	65	45
	Sidney	55	36	63	33	78	41	60	36	50	40	70	43	65	44
NC	Burwell	43	36	44	33	64	41	47	36	47	38	50	43	55	36
	Valentine	38	34	51	27	56	40	47	31	47	37	50	35	68	35
NE	Norfolk	44	38	44	33	66	47	51	33	50	40	54	46	55	36
	Sioux City	45	38	45	36	63	44	52	35	53	43	54	48	60	41
CEN	Grand Island	43	35	42	34	65	48	52	40	44	41	54	45	59	42
	Lincoln	48	39	44	42	67	50	56	43	46	41	78	47	64	47
EC	Omaha	42	39	44	37	63	48	53	37	50	43	72	47	61	42
	Imperial	50	35	54	37	80	42	53	33	44	41	68	42	62	44
SW	North Platte	41	35	51	35	80	44	52	36	46	39	63	42	58	42

U. S. Department of Agriculture
203 P. O. Building, Box 1911
Lincoln 1, Nebraska

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